"Weighed in the Balance," is a new bovel by Harry Lander. It has the value of sterling literary qualities and all the virtues of a property told tale. But the matter and the motive of the story rise so above the considerations of formal quality that they drop out of the reader's calculation of the book. He becomes engrossed in the problem of the author. The author would say that he is an optimist be cause he preaches elevation by the purest process, the reader would fain qualify his optimism as hapelessly pessimistic, for the wading to the hopeful final is a through sloughs of despond. "Weighed in the Balance" is the fruition of a sadly conditioned soul. Emerson commended conest doubt. The lesson of Mr. Lander's dark story is the hopelessness of evil, the fatality of the liberated conscietained, the weakness of human nature, and the inevitable conclusion that "faith in the unseen, acting upon the fears of mankind, still remains the most potent in-fluence for their moral elevation." Big "foreword" is a confession of his pittable condition of honest doubt.

His story is the recital of the unhappy boyhood and yould-time that stimusted increbility and shattered falls in existing conditions. It is not a story for the firm ground in faith, for it will strike unblows at sheltering bulwarks. Perhaps the nomadic mind adrift in a desert of doubts, bitter with its own hoplessness, may find therein the consoling company that misery loves. If the religioust reads unrebellious to the end he will remain to cry "amen" to the thermic formula: "Evil begets evil." But will the doubter find satisfaction for his Jarred soul in the proposition that "peace dwells only in the heart which does good only offer as ultimatum, the plenteous all, in wards and the dispelled confidence in personal lilety?

The book is only for the thoughtful, and only for the doublers. They must weigh it and its pessimistic optimism in the talance, and the tipping of the scales will vary in each heart according to the weights it weighs against it. The book will impress the author's name upon the mind of whosever reads it, and new offerings from him will be grosped with avidity. It will likewise augment John Lane's prestige among serious-minded renders, for his enroestness in presenting, from the Bodley presses, literature which has the impress of thought as well as the virtues of belies-lettres. (Washington, Woodward &

There exist in this country, and in nearly every other, two great organized forces-crime and its prevention. The body corporate for the prevention of crime we see in the great palice and detective services of the cities, States, and of the Union The organization of criminals who defy law, civil and moral, who make necessary the other corps, and attack by force or fraud the natural rights of man to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, is not remitting, experienced watch and study the police of the great centers have fer-retted out this simister element of our nondation; ther know the rescals who compose it, and they are familiar with the methods and means, ingenious and sur-prising, which are employed.

The result of a life of observation of favorable to an extensive and intimate experhance is embraced in a quarto volume, "Our Rival, the Rascal?" The authors are two men of the Boston police service, Su-perintendent Benjaman P. Eldridge, president of the National Union of Chiefs of Police, and Chief Inspector William B. Watts, in command of the delective force

"Our Rival, the Rascal" is practically the oirs of these two men, their experi ence and extensively accumulated knowlinto readable form.

The book discloses not only how well acquainted they are with their subject, whichever of the two wrote it, has brought to the expression of what they had to tell a simple, vigorous and often graceful and ornate style which gives liberary quality to an otherwise severely technical book. The pursuit of all sorts of racality and its prevention is described. from the seemingly crude but actually well-disciplined trade of mendicant to safe-cracker, with his elaborate me chanical devices, the daring train robbers and the sleek sharpers of the quill. There are bundreds of portraits of noted eriminals in all classes. In its entirety the work is one of the most valuable contributions to the science and literature of criminalogy in years. The experts will find it incomparable in the presentation of object lessons and subject matter, and the general reader will discover it a minue exposition of a phase of life veiled to all but a few. (Boston: Pemberton Publish-

"Broken Away" is an attractive novel by Bestrice Grimshaw. Sometimes the other has burdened her text with minute descriptions of trifles, which are rather esting to other than feminine read ers, but this is but the inevitable relief of a strong story behind. The title may apply to two phases of the story. It may refer to the conge which a young writer and his wife takes away from the platitudes of social life to see refreshment and inspiration with nature, or it may mean the unfortunate breaking away of the mind of another writer, who is crazed by his own failure and jealousy of his friend's success. The insune man pur his friend to his cottage in the hills and makes several crazed attempts to marder him, and for the idea which he believes would have made his own success, and which he believes his friend to have stolen. In the working out of this theme Miss Grimshaw has been most successful. It is written with a fine appreciation of dramatic quantities, and the resultant is moving and powerful. Woven about this phase of the story are two interesting love affairs. One the strange affair of the mail man and the mercenary May Miller, the other involving Terry O'Connell, one of the freshest, aweetest, thorough and lovable girls that has crept into fiction in many a day. Concentration would, however, have made a good story better, (New York, John Lane, Washing Woodward & Lothrop.)

After reading, with ever deepening at tention and profitable returns, through Joseph Parker's new book, "Might Have Been," the one and only criticism that springs to the pen, and it comes from the heart as well as the mind, is that every one might read it, and have it and read it again. It is a book full of witty diversion, excellent philosophy, consolution for doubt and human ethics characteristically set out. The very title itself strikes a chord in the

The might-have-beens never happen in real life, but Mr. Parker has invented the dramagraph, and that sets it all right. Through it, which is his book, he see life in the optimistic light, "m it might" 6355 5000 20000000000 60500000 6850 5650 9650 9650 5650

have been, for who knows that the po tential is not God's way of interpreting the indicative and actual?" Formally, the book is divided into forty-eight notes or chapters, and each of these is devoted to spirited and delightful chat on all va-neties of topics. "Might Have Been" is a book to love and be thankful for. (New Woodward & Lothrop.)

The erroneous reports of the loss of Stephen Crane's life at the time of the shipwreck of the Cuban filibusters occasioned great solicitude in England. The London Chronicie spoke of him as "the one young writer of genius that America possesses" -a most flattering tribute, coming on the very heefs of Dr. Nicoll's regret that he found no young writers of conse-quence in "the States." The Chronicle ranks the "Red Badge of Courage" with Tolstor's "Sebastopol."

At the request of the daughters and pub shers of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, Mrs. James T. Fields has undertaken Mrs. Stowe's biography. Mrs. Fields' book, "Authors and Friends" has shown that she s eminently fitted for the work.

"A Finnce on Trial" is one of the nev stories of last week. It was written by Fraucis Tillon Buck, who is also the author of "A Man of Two Minds." This is a daringly real and photographic novel of society. Photographic because there are men and women in society who would do. just as do the characters in Mr. Buck's story; it is daring in the simple fact that the authors and publishers have printed anything so realistic. Perhaps neither of them realized it, but they have made a bitter commentary on the shallowness and insignificance of many men and women whose education and opportunity should have equipped them better.

The surcasto of the situation may not appeal to all who rend the book. Mr. Buck has pictured the men and girls of the smart set with such exact clev-rness that these very ones in reading it will miss the rejection of their own faces in the enalty of a writer's own eleverness; perbaps Mr. Buck will chim it his compensation. Aside from the composite picture of the characters drawn from all they do the author has furnished some individual descriptions which should interest the reader. He evidently believes in the fascination of the eye and character denote ment in hair. He introduces every person with a minute description of both. Orcutt had "two bendy black eyes" and very thick lustrous black hair, thinly distributed over a small, round, bullet staped head, and leaving, indeed, a small oval bald spot just over the middle of Margaret Heslow's eyes "were a deep

brown with just a glint of gold in the which appeared in certain lights," to hair to match was "of a reddish brown shade, somewhat like the color of old mahogany, and was worn piled rathe loosely on the top of her head." colm Sturges "might at first sight have been taken for a Spanlard, for his glossy hair and heavy mustache were jet black and his eyes were almost black, and his skin was dark." For some time after the introduction to Sylvia Pelton the secre-of her hair and eyes are withheld, but pa tience brings them with a new chapter, and she is disclosed with "a wealth of soft golden hair, large time eyes, and a perfect complexion." The mother of Sylvia has dark brown wavy hair and brown eyes ' Mrs. Rand "had no distinctive outward characteristics except her kindly graseyes;"Gerald Anthony was fair-haired with clear blue eyes; the color of Svivia's father's eyes is a mystery, but he had "light hair and mustache," and, perhaps there are others. The book is boan artistic fashion that would make it a once a conspicuous ornament to any table (New York: Merriam Company. Washington: Woodward & Lothron.

Mr. Barrie, since his return from America as not been doing much literary work He has been engaged in the dramatization of "The Little Minister," with which he has made good progress. He did no at first intend to do the work himself, but has now taken it in hand, and it may to expected without very long delay.

The Book Bover accumulates size with age. Gradually this magazine is becoming buxom, as might any natural health; growth. From the long contents there are three particularly attractive articles One is by Rebecca Harding Davis, on "Some Hobgoblins in Literature." She complains that the world has refused to see somwriters in their real light, and has branded them with the character rather of demigod or man. Walt Whitman is one, Edgar Alian Poe another, Margaret Folier a third. William Winter has a sympathetic account to Donald G. Mitchell, "Ik Mar vel," and this gives occasion for a charming photoengravure frontispiece of his Edge wood home. Something of a personal nature is told about Arthur Hadley, the author of the recent unique work on "Econo-

The Rambler is found in possession of much interesting information; Edward Bellamy's new book will be called "Equality;" Bliss Carman's new book of poems will be called "Ballads of Lost Haven;" Chicago has a new magazine called "The Four o'Clock," whose chief claim to among an odd species, seems to be that its illustrations are "cut out and pasted in," after the fashion of a scrap book or a

the Book Buyer this month, including reviews by Lieut. Peary, U. S. N.; Paul Leicester Ford, Laurence Hutton and others.

The Critic does not resent the warming over given its contents each mouth by The Month. Passing the question of excellence, the utility of the monthly edition of the Criticis not obvious. The admirable weekly fills an undisputed place in the purveyance of literary news. Why should it be warmed over under one cover every month? Perhaps for the economical assistance of those who do not take the Critic. But can you imagine anyone being or affecting to be "au

couract" without the Critic" Sir Edwin Arnold has bought a yacht, and accompanied by his son and daughter in-law, proposes to start for a cruise in the

English giri, but was refused her hand in marriage; how he destroyed himself; how his wife, returning with her son, blamed gested, and vowed a terrible vengeance how she bided her time and married her son with his inherited weaknesses to the daughter of the girl whom she blamed for her husband's death; how terrible was the life of the innocent victim to this liendish plot; all this is the burden of "The Sacrifice of Fools," a story written by R. Manifold Craig. It is a highly colored romance of love and revenge, adventure and striking unconventionalities. (New York: Frederick Stokes. Washington: Brentano.)

A tale of the search for happiness is "A Transullantic Chatelaine." To some it comes at once, to others delayed; for some it is in possession, for others, even in separation, when the link of real love unites. So it was with Sylvia, the heroine of Helen Choate Prince's story. She seemed oppressed by more than her measure of fate's persecutions, but through it all she sustained berself a noble, beautiful character. Though in the end her true love was demed her in life, she was happy in the knowledge that his heart was hers, and there was a sweet calmand holy satisfaction for her sustainment. The navel is a tale of character development, and in motive it is a protest against marriages of American girls with foreign titles. It is told in an admirable manner, flavored with the sentiment of domesticity and the romance of war and its fortunes. The author of this story is remembered as having written "The Story of Christine Rochefort."-Boston: Hooghton, Mifflin & Co.; Washington: Brentano.

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